CLAIMS:

1. An over-height vehicle barrier, said barrier having a series of over-height vehicle engaging members mounted in closely-spaced relationship on a supporting beam mounted above a carriageway such that each member hangs beneath the beam for possible engagement by an over-height vehicle, each member being pivotally mounted to the beam at an upper end portion thereof such that each member can pivot about the axis of the beam independently of the other members when struck by an over-height vehicle, and a further beam spaced from the supporting beam to be engaged by said members pivoting about the supporting beam when struck by an over-height vehicle and to thereby cause the members to pivot in a return direction, engagement of said members by a vehicle generating a warning noise to alert the driver of the vehicle.

2. A barrier according to claim 1, wherein each of the engaging members is in the form of a blade with substantially flat parallel sides and having a leading edge facing the oncoming traffic.

3. A barrier according to claim 2, wherein each blade is of downwardly tapering profile when viewed from the side.

4. A barrier according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein the supporting beam is of circular cross section to provide a direct pivotal mounting for each blade.

5. A barrier according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein the blades are each of a semi-rigid structure capable of deforming upon impact to absorb energy.

6. A barrier according to claim 5, wherein the blades are composed principally of polyurethane.

7. A barrier according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the further beam against which the members impact is a gantry beam from which the supporting beam is rigidly

mounted so that the supporting beam lies beneath the gantry beam.

8. A barrier according to claim 7, wherein the gantry beam is a tube of circular section so that when impacted by the pivoting members the gantry beam will generate a loud resonant noise.

9. A barrier according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said further beam is a tube of circular section so that when impacted by the pivoting members, the gantry beam will generate a loud resonant noise.

10. An over-height vehicle barrier, said barrier having a series of over-height vehicle engaging members mounted in closely-spaced relationship on a supporting beam mounted above a carriageway such that each member hangs beneath the beam for possible engagement by an over-height vehicle, each member being mounted to the beam at an upper end portion thereof by a rotary bearing arrangement such that each member can swing about the axis of the beam independently of the other members when struck by an over-height vehicle, and a further beam spaced above the supporting beam to be engaged by said members swinging about the supporting beam when struck by an over-height vehicle and to thereby cause the members to swing in a return direction, engagement of said members by a vehicle generating a warning noise to alert the driver of the vehicle.

11. An over-height vehicle barrier, said barrier having a series of over-height vehicle engaging members mounted in closely-spaced relationship on a supporting beam of circular cross-section mounted above a carriageway such that each member hangs beneath the beam for possible engagement by an over-height vehicle, each member being mounted to the beam by a rotary bearing at an upper end portion of the member such that each member can swing about the axis of the beam independently of the other members when struck by an over-height vehicle, and means spaced from the supporting beam to be engaged by said members swinging about the supporting beam when struck by an over-height vehicle and to thereby cause the members to swing in a return direction, each said member being composed of a material which is resiliently deformable when struck by an over-height vehicle to absorb

energy upon impact, engagement of said members by a vehicle generating a warning noise to alert the driver of the vehicle.

12. A barrier according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein each of the engaging members is in the form of a blade with substantially flat parallel sides and having a leading edge facing the oncoming traffic.

13. An over-height vehicle barrier, said barrier having a supporting beam mounted above a carriageway, multiple blade-like members rotatably mounted to the supporting beam such that the blade-like members are suspended downwardly from the beam with the members being arranged in parallel relationship in close proximity one to another with a leading edge of each member facing oncoming traffic on the carriageway for possible engagement by an over-height vehicle such that each member can rotate about the axis of the beam independently of the other members when struck by an over-height vehicle, and means engageable by the rotating members when struck by a vehicle to limit the extent of rotation about the axis of the beam and to thereby cause the members to rotate in a return direction, each said member being composed of a material which is resiliently deformable when struck by an over-height vehicle to absorb energy upon impact, engagement of said members by a vehicle generating a warning noise to alert the driver of the vehicle.

14. A barrier according to claim 13, wherein the means engageable by the rotating members when struck is a tube mounted above the beam and substantially parallel thereto to generate a loud resonant noise when impacted by the rotating members.